GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2860
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
AMENDMENT IN THE IMMIGRATION LAWS BY U.K.
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Kingdom(U.K.) has amended their Immigration laws;

(b) if so,the details thereof alongwith its implications on the Indians in U.K.;

(c) whether a large number of Indians have objected to such amendment;

(d) if so,the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has taken up the issue with the U.K. Government; and

(f) if so,the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) Yes.The UK has amended their immigration laws and has launched a Points-Based System (PBS) in 2008 to streamline more than 80 existing routes of entry into five broad categories for the non EU workers. Each of the 5 tiers will have different conditions, entitlements and entry clearance checks. As a first stage, Tier-1 of PBS for highly skilled workers has replaced the erstwhile Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP), and has been implemented in India from 1st April 2008. Tier 2 for skilled workers has been implemented from November 27, 2008.Other tiers of the PBS are to be implemented by Spring 2009.

(c) & (d) The Government is not aware of Indians having objected to the new Points-Based System introduced in 2008.

(e) & (f) Government have urged the UK authorities in bilateral talks that the new system should not create difficulties for Indian nationals entry or stay in the UK.